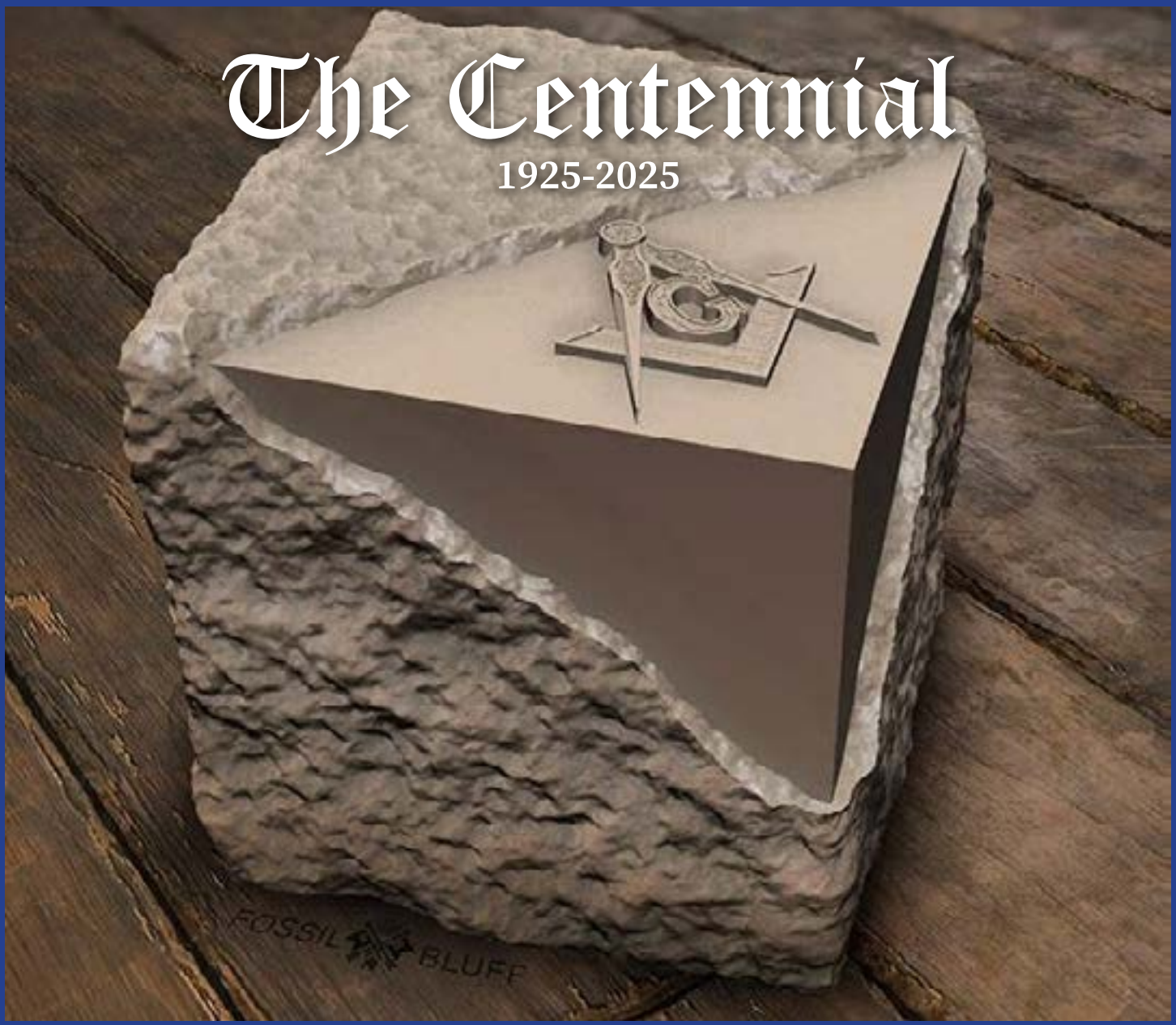
John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world..."

Anne Frank

MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD

April 2025

Chartered February 11, 1925

FROM THE EAST

My Brethren and Friends of John A. Lejeune:

I would be remiss if I didn't, at the onset of this "Master's Masonic Message", thank from the bottom of my heart, the Brethren involved with Working in the Quarries to help facilitate what was truly a remarkable Centennial Celebration commemorating a CENTURY of FREEMASONRY here in Quantico-Proper. The Work each of you put in, however minor, helped make the day truly humbling, educational, and beautiful. Thanks also to the Visiting Brethren, families and friends, and those who sojourned far and wide to be a part of something rarely-seen in the Craft! I, along with several Brethren who 'recorded' (Brother Zack) the Ceremony via video and photos (Brother Tae, and others...), am in the process of submitting an article dedicated to the 29th of March to the Virginia Masonic Herald, that the Grand Lodge membership can appreciate this milestone. Thanks also to the dignitaries, including our Grand Master, Past Grand Master, DDGM, and others who sojourned to "Q-Town". I could go on with accolades, but certainly must recognize (Brother) Sergeant Major Harold G. Overstreet, the 12th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, from 1991 to 1995, our Keynote Speaker, and, Master of Ceremonies, (Brother) Col. William "Bill" Smith ..... both of whom flew in from the Lone Star State!

At our upcoming Stated this Monday, the 21st, we'll hear from our Senior Warden who will share a passage from the Methodical Digest, as well as our Junior Warden, who will enlighten the Brethren on some facet of the Constitutions of Masonry. We'll have a short amount of Business, followed by a few Presentations. A short, but poignant Education Program follows. Brethren, prepare for a Fellowcraft Degree this month as well! Schools of Instruction forthcoming, as well as our usual Friday "Garodge Lodges". As the weather warms, and now that I'm finally-enabled to drive, I'd like to initiate "River Lodges", down at the City Dock, where we meet once or twice (or more!, I'm retired!)...at the River to discuss the Craft, either with Catechism Instruction, Warden's Certificate Work, Floor Work, or whatever you may be interested in Masonically! If you're in, simply post on GroupMe when you're available, usually as most Brethren have work-obligations, it'll be in the afternoons and/or weekends----both of which work for me! I'm eagerly anticipating getting back 'into' the Work of Masonry in some Visits, Masonic Road Trips, or other sources of Light! The Road to Recovery finally has a window of illumination for this ol' Master, and he can't wait!!! Stay Tuned!

Coincidentally, also at the Centennial, I was surprised by something I've waited for all of my Masonic Life: I was presented with a "Lewis Jewel". A "Lewis" has an interesting Masonic significance:

LEWIS Jewel Background and History

A LEWIS is a simple, but ingenious device employed by operative Masons to raise heavy blocks of stone into place. It consists of three metal parts: two wedge-shaped sidepieces, and a straight centerpiece, that fit together (tenon).

A dovetailed recess is cut into the top of the stone block (mortise). The two outer pieces are inserted first and then spread by the insertion of

the centerpiece. The three parts are then bolted together, a metal ring or shackle is attached and the block is hoisted by hook, rope and pulley. By this means, the block is gripped securely. Once set in its place in the structure, the lewis is removed leaving the upper surface smooth with no clamp or chains on the outside to interfere with the laying of the next course of stones.

The stonemason's lewis is a device used in raising and lowering stone blocks in the course of building construction as exemplified by the smooth ashlar in the tripod usually found on or by the Senior Warden's chair.

The Romans, in their day, are thought to have used it in the building of the Flavian Amphitheatre and the Saxons in the building of Whitby Abbey in the seventh century.

There is evidence for believing that the device was employed in putting into place some of the more massive stones of Hadrian's Wall or Roman Wall (AD120– 209) for what appears to have been lewis holes can still be seen in parts built by the Roman Emperor Severus, who heavily repaired the wall in AD209.

The stonemason's lewis is a grapnel, for which a specially shaped socket needs to be cut in the top face of the blocks of hard, strong stone to be lifted. Two opposite sides or ends of the socket are undercut, not all four as often portrayed. Two wedge- shaped tapered steel pieces are inserted into the socket and between them is inserted a parallel steel spacer, which spreads the wedges into the undercut parts. A shackle pin, or bolt, is passed through the upper extensions of all three and pro- vides a hold for the lifting chain. (The illustration(s) below shows how the device works.)

The precise purpose of the lewis is to allow the hoisting chain of the tripod, derrick or crane, to raise the stone and then lower it into its exact final position into the structure, which would not be possible if chains, or ropes passed underneath the stone.

When the stone is in its exact position, the metal key and shackle bolt is removed, thus allowing the spacing piece to be withdrawn and then the two wedges.

Thus the lewis not only provides the stonemason with a convenient method of attaching the hoisting chains to the stone, but also the ability to lift the heaviest stones with the minimum expenditure of physical effort.

Clearly the lewis may be regarded as an appropriate symbol of STRENGTH – a double symbol, in as much as its name has been given to the son of a mason, his duty being to bear the burden and heat of the day so that his parents may rest in their old age, thus rendered the 'twilight' of their lives peaceful and happy.

The double symbolism is mentioned in some old catechisms but the normal Craft ritual does not refer to it, although the device has a place in Mark Masonry.

From a late 18th century catechism, comes the following:

- What do we call the son of a Freemason? A lewis.
- What does that denote? Strength.

- How is a lewis depicted in a mason's lodge? As a cramp of metal.
- What is the duty of a lewis to his aged parents? To bear the heavy burden etc.
- His privilege for doing so? To be made a mason before any other person, however dignified by birth, rank or riches, unless he, through complaisance, waives this privilege.

There is good ground for believing that the lewis was originally the first son born to a man after that man had become a Freemason.

Our ancient Operative Brethren used this tool as early as the Roman era. Stones with the mortised cavity for the insertion of a lewis have been found in England in Hadrian's Wall built c. 121-127 CE. Archaeologists have found further evidence of its use by the Saxons in England in buildings constructed in the 7th century. The origin of the term 'lewis' for this device is uncertain. Some authorities trace its etymology to the French levis from lever – to lift, hoist, raise; and louve – a sling, grip or claw for lifting stones.

Masonic historians conclude that the term came into use in the 18th century. The Lecture in the Second Degree published by William Preston in the 1780s contains a lengthy discourse on the Lewis.

WM- Brother J.W., How were the sons of craftsmen named?

JW – To the son on whom these honors were bequeathed, the appellation of Lewis was given, that from henceforth he might be entitled to all the privileges which that honor conferred, W. Sir.

There are many references to the Lewis in early Masonic Catechisms. The Wilkinson MS Catechism (c 1730 / 1740) states the following:

Q. What's a Mason's Sons Name?

A. Lewis

A paragraph in a version of the Junior Warden's Lecture used in the United Grand Lodge of England dating from 1801 gives this instructive explanation: "The word Lewis denotes strength, and is here depicted by certain pieces of metal dovetailed into a stone, which forms a cramp, and enables the operative Mason to raise great weights to certain heights with little encumbrance, and to fix them in their proper places. Lewis, likewise denotes the son of a Mason; his duty is to bear the heat and burden of the day, from which his parents, by reason of their age, ought to be exempt; to help them in time of need, and thereby render the close of their days happy and comfortable; his privilege for so doing is to be made a Mason before any other person however dignified."

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Brother Barry Mensh

Brethren and Friends, I leave you this April with a recent article I found about what I have ALWAYS believed to be the "least-emphasized-yet-critically-important lessons" for ALL Masons as they utilize-and-employ in their daily transactions with Mankind, our "**Charges**" that follow each Degree...

By Worshipful Robbie Robinson Past Master of Galilei Lodge 810a, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Past Master of Vinton Lodge No. 204, Vinton, Virginia

It may appear to some that the "charges" are a minor addition appended at the end of the Ritual and drama of each of the Degrees, but this is not the case. These charges have particular importance and serve to relate the broad philosophical, historical, and traditional teachings of the degree to our own lives and times. To begin to understand their importance, it is useful to reflect that the word "charge" has a number of meanings. One definition is to give instructions to a person. A second is to give a task to a person. A third is to be responsible for something, and a fourth deals with trust or safekeeping. The "charges" apply to all Masons, from the Entered Apprentice, to the Fellowcraft, to the Master Mason from the perspective of each of these meanings. When we give the "charge" at the end of each degree, we are, in fact, providing instructions to the new Mason. We are giving him certain Page 1 of 5 tasks and making him responsible for certain things, and we are trusting him to live up to the standards, and to safeguard the principles, we have articulated in the degree. To live as close to a pure Masonic life as we can, it is useful to do more than simply listen to the "charges" during a degree. Rather, at regular intervals, we should refresh our minds by reviewing the instructions they contain, so we might more successfully act in accordance with the values they teach. When an initiate enters the Lodge for the first time, he is taught three great duties to which he must always adhere: the first duty is to his God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe; the second duty is to his neighbor; and the last is to himself. He must believe in the Supreme Being, never mentioning His Name without that due respect and reverential awe which is due to his Creator. He is to believe and act with a pure heart, remembering that the Supreme Architect of the Universe is the giver of all good graces to all mankind. The initiate should never treat his neighbor other than how he would want his neighbor to treat him: that is with respect, honor, and dignity, always acting upon the square. Beyond the moral imperative contained in the Golden Rule, failure to adhere to this principle reflects on our Masonic character. In your community and among your circle of acquaintances, bad behavior not only diminishes your own reputation, it also tarnishes the reputation of the Fraternity as well. Instead of being a role model in your community and a person others would want to emulate, they will judge that Page 2 of 5 value of Freemasonry has detracted rather than added to your character and they would hardly want to join our Craft. Last, but not least, is the duty that you owe to yourself. If you do not live uprightly and continue to grow morally and spiritually, you fail in this duty. Rather than becoming better than you are now, which is the goal of Freemasonry – making good men better – you will fail to realize the potential given to you by the Great Architect of the Universe. In the Fellowcraft "charge," you are to improve your education and increase in knowledge. This "charge" is, in a sense, a code of conduct which requires you to stay within the realm of the rules and regulations of the Fellowcraft Degree. You are told that your behavior and deportment thus far have earned the honor which now has been conferred on you, and in this new character, you are required to conform to the principles of the Order by always persevering in the practice of every virtue. Thus, it is to be understood that improving in knowledge encompasses not just the skills needed to earn a living, but includes the social skills and the practice of moral character as well. Again, therefore, the "charge" not only defines the strengthened bonds, ties, and duties toward your Brethren, but makes the point that the true

test of a Mason goes beyond his behavior as a Mason within the Lodge, to include his conduct in the community. When at last, you receive the "charge" at the end of the third degree, you recall it focuses very clearly on the character expected of a Master Mason – which after all, in many ways defines the essence of Freemasonry Page 3 of 5 and projects a proper image of the Fraternity to the community and to the world. It would take more time than is available for this talk to detail the full meaning of Masonic character. It is clear, however, that in the eyes of the community, Masonic character will be defined by your behavior and demeanor, rather than by the high-sounding words and principles in our literature. Very often, evidence of Masonic character is dependent more on the little things: a caring word, a kindness extended, or a small favor, than on some grand gesture. The absence of Masonic character is equally noticeable, for example, when in Lodge there is a lack of courtesy among the Brethren, back biting, and unseemly arguments. The result of such behavior harms the Lodge, which then often experiences diminished enthusiasm, poor ritual, poor attendance, and reduced participation. Such deficient deportment in Lodge, which is supposed to be where we exhibit the gold standard of our behavior, is often evidenced in equally questionable conduct outside the Lodge, which taints the image of our Fraternity. It is to avoid these situations from ever occurring that we need to review the "charge" to the new Master Mason that "the Ancient Landmarks of the Order, entrusted to your care must always be preserved and never suffer them to be infringed, or countenance a deviation from the established usages and customs of our great Fraternity." We also are told to never let any motive make us swerve from our duty, or violate our vows, or betray our trust. Thus, in the unfortunate circumstance when these situations do arise, it is up to us "in the character Page 4 of 5 of a Master Mason," to set an example by demonstrating leadership, and deciding to engage, and, thus, by acting quickly restore peace and harmony in the Lodge. I would conclude this talk by restating the proposition that there is value in setting aside a time of quiet reflection when we can revisit the "Charges" of the Degrees and consider what it means to be a Master Mason. First, we should remember the obligation we have to our newer Masons to set an example and to help to mold their Masonic characters. Second, we should also remember the obligation to render ourselves deserving of the honor that was conferred and merit the confidence, which was reposed in us when we were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

FROM THE WEST

Brotherly Love

Brethren, in the last 2 months I chose to write about truth and relief. It's probably no surprise that this month I am writing about brotherly love.

Brotherly love is one of the core tenets of Freemasonry, embodying the principle that all people, regardless of background, should treat one another with kindness, respect, and support. In Masonic teachings, brotherly love is not just a passive sentiment but an active commitment to fostering unity and goodwill among members and the broader community. It encourages Masons to see humanity as one family, bound by shared values and mutual understanding. This principle is deeply rooted in the idea that Freemasonry unites individuals from different walks of life, promoting true friendship among those who might otherwise remain distant.

The Masonic interpretation of brotherly love extends beyond the lodge, urging members to practice compassion and empathy in their daily lives. It aligns with universal values found in various religious and philosophical traditions, such as the Christian call to love one another, the Islamic emphasis on fraternity, and the Buddhist practice of loving-kindness. Furthermore, In Judaism, brotherly love is a fundamental principle rooted in the Torah and expanded upon in rabbinic teachings. The commandment "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18) is central to Jewish ethics and is considered by many sages, including Rabbi Akiva, to be the essence of the Torah. This principle extends beyond fellow Jews to include strangers, as stated in Leviticus 19:34: "You shall love the stranger as yourself."

By embracing brotherly love, Masons strive to create a more harmonious society, where individuals support each other in times of need and celebrate each other's successes. This principle also plays a crucial role in leadership within Freemasonry, as it fosters trust, respect, and meaningful connections among members.

It is my fervent prayer that we all redouble our efforts to show brotherly love to everyone whom we encounter, especially given the divisive political nature of today's American society.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Brian Potvin

The Brethren of John A. LeJeune #350 are working on a long-term project to beautify the back yard of one of our widows. Today we finished up placing the first of many loads of dirt into a hole that used to be a partially inground pool. This is one of many projects we will be undertaking in the next few years at this house, but this is the Brethren of JAL #350 fulfilling one of our most solemn obligations: caring for our widows. Also my son (hopefully a future Mason) gave us a hand to have some fellowship with a few good men trying to be better men!

SECRETARY'S DESK

Brethren,

The payment of Lodge dues has progressed well, but there are still 19 brothers that have yet to pay their due. Unfortunately, some will be suspended from the Fraternity by Grand Lodge for Non-Payment of Dues which will make them ineligible for membership in any appendant bodies as well.

The Centennial celebration of the lodge went very well and the turnout was much better than expected with an impressive guest list. The meal was catered by Mission Barbeque and as one can figure, there were no complaints!

I may have covered this next subject before and if it sounds a bit repetitious, please forgive the lapse of memory.

2024 was a busy one for keeping the lodge in working order. We have revamped the windows in the main lodge room by taking out the sheet rock that covered them and then completely replacing the windows themselves, having the entire lodge room painted and then hanging dark blue blackout curtains over the window spaces. The next project for that space will be to replace the carpeting in the East, West and South and eventually have the ceiling replaced with a sheet rock surface and perhaps new lighting as well.

We have also replaced every other window in the entire lodge. This includes the upper floors and all the downstairs as well. Due to the age of the hot water heater, it finally died. We wound up replacing it, but managed to save on the purchase because the Lodge Secretary works at Lowe's. The installation was no cost as well as a brother in the Lodge happens to be a Master Plumber and Master Electrician!

As the lodge building is over 100 years old, that grand old lady requires a bit more maintaining than one would imagine, but all this could not have been accomplished without your dues payments. I anticipate that this and the following years will be exceptional for John A. LeJeune #350 as we continue to celebrate our 100th anniversary and beyond.

S & F

Randall

TREASURER'S DESK

Our Centennial Celebration continues on: As we proudly look back and close one chapter of our celebration of 100 years as a Lodge supporting both the civil and military communities alike, we open yet another that will extend throughout the year. Our celebration on 29 March 2025 was our first event and was widely attended by community leaders, masonic dignitaries, and local citizens. The event's guest speaker was Sergeant Major and Brother Harold "Gene" Overstreet, the 12th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. I would like to give a quick summary of some of the information about the attendance. We were honored to have great representation from the Grand Lodge of Virginia (GLoVA), with the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman, and the Past Grand Master, Jack Kayle Lewis in attendance with RW James Friend Dickerson, PDDGM, Admin Asst to MW, RW Richard Burton "Mickey" Bowyer, GLoVA Grand Marshal, RW Michael Dale Henderson, Associate Grand Marshal, RW Stephen Lee Stinson, Jr., Grand Tiler, and WB Dwayne Collins Ruff, MAHOVA District Ambassador. We had local district representation from RW John Kenneth Dorey III, DDGM District 1b, RW James Robert Scott Jr, PDDGM District 1B, and our very own RW Donald Ford Ritenour, Past PDDGM District 1b. Several community leaders were also present with the Honorable Mrs. Andrea O. Bailey, Potomac District Supervisor, Prince William Board of County Supervisors (PWBCS), and Honorable Brother Victor S. Angry, Neabsco District Supervisor, PWBCS. We had a total of 20 Lodges represented, with three being out of state.

- Anson Jones #1416, Friendswood, TX
- Arlington Centennial-Glebe Lodge #81, Arlington, VA
- Bedford Lodge #244, Bedford, VA
- Bunnell Lodge No. 200 F&AM, Bunnell, FL
- Chickahominy Lodge #286, Toano, VA

(Celebrating their 125th Anniversary this year)
- Covington Lodge #171, Covington, VA
- Dale City Lodge #319, Woodbridge, VA
- Fredericksburg, Lodge # 4, Fredericksburg, VA
- John A. Lejeune Lodge #350, Quantico, VA
- Kent Lodge #305, Keeling, VA
- Lakeland Lodge #190, Roanoke, VA
- Liberty Lodge #95, Bedford, VA
- Manasseh Lodge #182, Manassas, VA
- MW John R. Heisner Lodge #442, San Diego, CA
- Occoquan Lodge #310, Occoquan, VA
- Springfield Lodge #217, Springfield, VA
- Stafford Lodge #279, Stafford, VA
- Widows' Son Lodge #60, Charlottesville, VA
- Williamsburg Lodge #6, Williamsburg, VA
- Willis V. Fentress Lodge #296, Virginia Beach, VA

We had three Order of the Eastern Star Chapters represented.
- Occoquan Chapter #59 Order of the Eastern Star, Occoquan VA
- Martha Washington Chapter #42 Order of the Eastern Star, Alexandria, VA
- Calvine A. Lloyd Chapter #81 Order of the Eastern Star, Quantico, VA

Successful events like this do not just occur. They require a great deal of work, planning, logistics, and execution. The Brethren of the Lodge and the Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter #81 Order of the Eastern Star (OES) assembled under adverse conditions to make this a successful event. The members of the OES Chapter planned and prepared decorations, set up the venue, and served all the attendees. Many were unaware that this event was executed with no civil power due to an unavoidable last-minute outage by the Marine Corps Base and that WB Randall had spent a better part of a week painting the basement floor and walls, all the while pulling off his regular job during the evenings. Although recovering from surgery and being semi-ambulatory, WB Barry polished the Lodge floor and aided in preparing for the event to showcase our Lodge. Brother Zac was omnipresent, helping in any way that he could. The coordination, communication, and collaboration between the Base leadership and security assets was accomplished through the tireless efforts of Brother Terry. An actual herculean job by all brethren and all should be commended.

I will leave you with this parting thought. Our Lodge may be small in numbers, but we are mighty as a Lodge is not just a building and should be judged by the quality of its members, the dedication to our craft, and our devotion to our basic Masonic core principles, which are brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Historical Insights -- Did you know? The most brethren raised in one year by the John A. Lejeune Lodge #350 A.F.&A.M. occurred in 1957 during the administration of Worshipful Lively Corr Abel. He presided over the raising of 43 candidates during his year. The largest number of members in one year occurred during the administration of Worshipful William Roland Fouts; he had a total membership of 432 members during his tenure in 1962.

TEAMS

As we are still in the process of forming and filling our Teams this Masonic Year, PLEASE read this Trestleboard, volunteer to join ANY Team, *and* let me know which one you want to be a part of, send me an e-mail message indicating such, and help JAL 350 to *Be the Difference*!!! I'll publicize the Team Members in the February Trestleboard as an ongoing TEAM(We're hoping for **at least 3** team-members per team, some will have more, out of necessity, such as JAL's FINANCE TEAM, e.g.

LODGE EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Our lodge educational designers

WB Barry Mensh (DEO)
Bro. Aaron Duncan (Asst. LEO)

LODGE INSTRUCTOR OF WORK

Our lodge promoters of ritual

WB Jim Solomon (LIW)
WB Barry Mensh (Asst. LIW)

MASONIC WELLNESS/PEACE & HARMONY

Includes well-being of our Masonic widows, sickness and distress, good of the craft, stewards, etc.

Bro. Bill Stevenson (Lead)
Bro. Terry Jones, WB Morgan Tolliver

MEMBERSHIP & MEDIA, A.K.A., MASONIC VISIBILITY!

Includes publicity (social media), communication (phone trees), visitations, funerals, etc.

Bro. Brian Potvin (Lead)
WB Jim Solomon, WB Morgan Tolliver

JAL CENTENNIAL TEAM

Bro. Brian Potvin (Lead), Bro. Terry Jones (Lead)
Bro. Harvey Miller, WB Randall Arnold, Bro. Zack McCellan, Bro. Jim Richey, Bro. Ian McIntyre

FROM THE WEST GATE

Includes mentoring, belonging, and consistent involvement, with no unattended brethren, no one left at the brow of the hill

Bro. Dalton Greever (Lead)
Bro. Aaron Duncan

FINANCE

Incl*udes audit (trustees), budget, by-laws, and creative fundraising*

WB Jim Solomon(Lead)
WB Randall Arnold, Bro. Harvey Miller, Bro. Kahlil DeBerry, RW Rex Rockhill(Emeritus)

EXPLORATION & ORIENTATION

"Guarding the West Gate"

We'll have "3-brother teams" Chaired by our Wardens, Bro. Brian Potvin, Bro. Terry Jones, with other members added as needed

APPENDANT BODIES & FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Bro. Bill Stevenson (Lead)
Bro. Ian McIntyre, Bro. Dalton Greever

JAL LODGE MASONIC HOME AMBASSADOR

Bro. Harvey Miller (Lead)
WB Randall Arnold, WB Barry Mensh

JAL LODGE BLOOD COORDINATOR

2 drives/year

WB Barry Mensh(Lead)
Bro. Terry Jones, Bro. Jim Richey

OFFICERS 2025

Worshipful Master
WB Barry Mensh, PM

Senior Warden
Bro. Brian Potvin

Junior Warden
Bro. Terrell Jones

Treasurer
Bro. Harvey Miller

Secretary
WB Randall Arnold, PM

Senior Deacon
Bro. Dalton Greever

Junior Deacon
Bro. Aaron Duncan

Chaplain
WB Morgan Tolliver

Senior Steward
Bro. Jim Richey

Junior Steward
Bro. Zachiary McClellan

Marshal
Bro. Ian McIntyre

Tiler
WB Jim Solomon, PM

APPENDANT BODIES

Order of the Eastern Star
Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter 81
Worthy Matron Jean Wertman

Order of the Amaranth
RW Rex Rockhill

Scottish Rite
WB Brandon Bateman

Shriners
To be assigned

Sojourners Chapter 44
Randall Arnold

York Rite
To be assigned

Living Past Masters

1976 Donald Ritenour
1982/2010 Rex Rockhill
1983 Richard Fravel*
1985 Frank Harris III
1987 James Day*
1990 James Van Fleet
1992 Thomas Blizzard*
1994 David Ekren
1996 Ronald Bigger
2000 Emory Kelley
2002/2018 Jim Solomon
2003/04 Kenneth Wrisley
2009 Donald Radeke
2012 Jason Newcomer
2013/2015 Robert Lane
2014 Carl DeSantis
2019/20/21 Randall Arnold
2022 Barry Mensh
2023 Brandon Bateman
2024 Morgan Tolliver
* = Demitted

50+ Year Members

80-Year Member
Donald E. Martin

70-Year Member
Richard T. Spooner

60-Year Members
Frank W. Harris III
Donald R. Briner
Victor D. Freudenberger
Donald L Meek
Donald F. Ritenhour

50-Year Members
Joseph Brooks
John R Covington Jr.
James D. Delp
John A. Jones
Harold R. Knowles
John C. Kriska
Lloyd L. Loy
Thomas A. McNight
Donald Radeke
Donald E. Schneider

Teams

Brethren, we value your opinions, so please let the Worshipful Master know if you would like to head up a team or start a new one. Do you see something missing in what we as a lodge are accomplishing? Do you want to see us more visible in the community and know of a great way to accomplish this? We are open for suggestions. Several of our teams are transient and change from year to year. Many of these would benefit from a stable person heading up the team year-after-year. If you have some time and would like to make a difference, let us know.

Do you have e-mail?

If so please let the secretary know. You can add your email on the Lodge contact page, that way it goes to both Randall and Jim for receiving the Trestleboard. Also, If you have noticed that you do not receive the Trestleboard any more, please check the email you sent us. If we get an address kicked back to us more than three times, we will delete it.

E-mail will give us the ability to send to you short notices, effective and timely communications, including reminders of meetings and activities. Please remember that failure to let the secretary know of address changes costs the lodge money and it delays any correspondence we would like to send out.

Volunteers needed

Lawn: If you have the time and don't mind sweating a little bit, there are times that the lawn needs to be mowed. We do not pay anyone to mow it. The mower, rake and gas are at the lodge, we just need the manpower to get it done as needed.

Mentors: Many of you remember spending lots of quality time working on the catechism with a coach or mentor whether at the lodge or in a more personal setting. Well it's time to pay it forward. We are always in need of some dedicated Brothers to teach our up-and-coming Brothers the finer arts of the catechism. No matter where you live or work, there is always a possibility that a new Mason may be in your area and open to meet with you more frequently than once a week.

Stated Communications

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m., except December, when we meet on the second Monday. We start with Fellowship and food at 6:00 p.m. for those coming there without stopping at home first. We welcome all visiting recognized Masons.

Physical Address:
235 Potomac Avenue
Quantico, Virginia

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 214 Quantico, Virginia 22134

Call us by extension:
703-718-5204
Secretary Ext. 201
Treasurer Ext. 206
Webmaster Ext. 203

District Schools

Fellowship will go at 6:00 p.m. with the District Education Officer giving a short presentation at 7 p.m. and the school beginning at 7:30 sharp. Keep an eye out for this year's schools.

Staying Connected

In the past, you wanted to become a Mason. You asked a Mason to join their lodge as a Mason. They accepted you with open arms as a brother. Brethren, do you remember that point in your life when three distinguished men came to visit your home or place of work and discussed with you your interest in Freemasonry? Many of you were excited to become Masons and informed the investigation committee just how much you wanted to be involved in the lodge as well as in Freemasonry. I have sat on many committees and have heard those words spoken by many of our members.

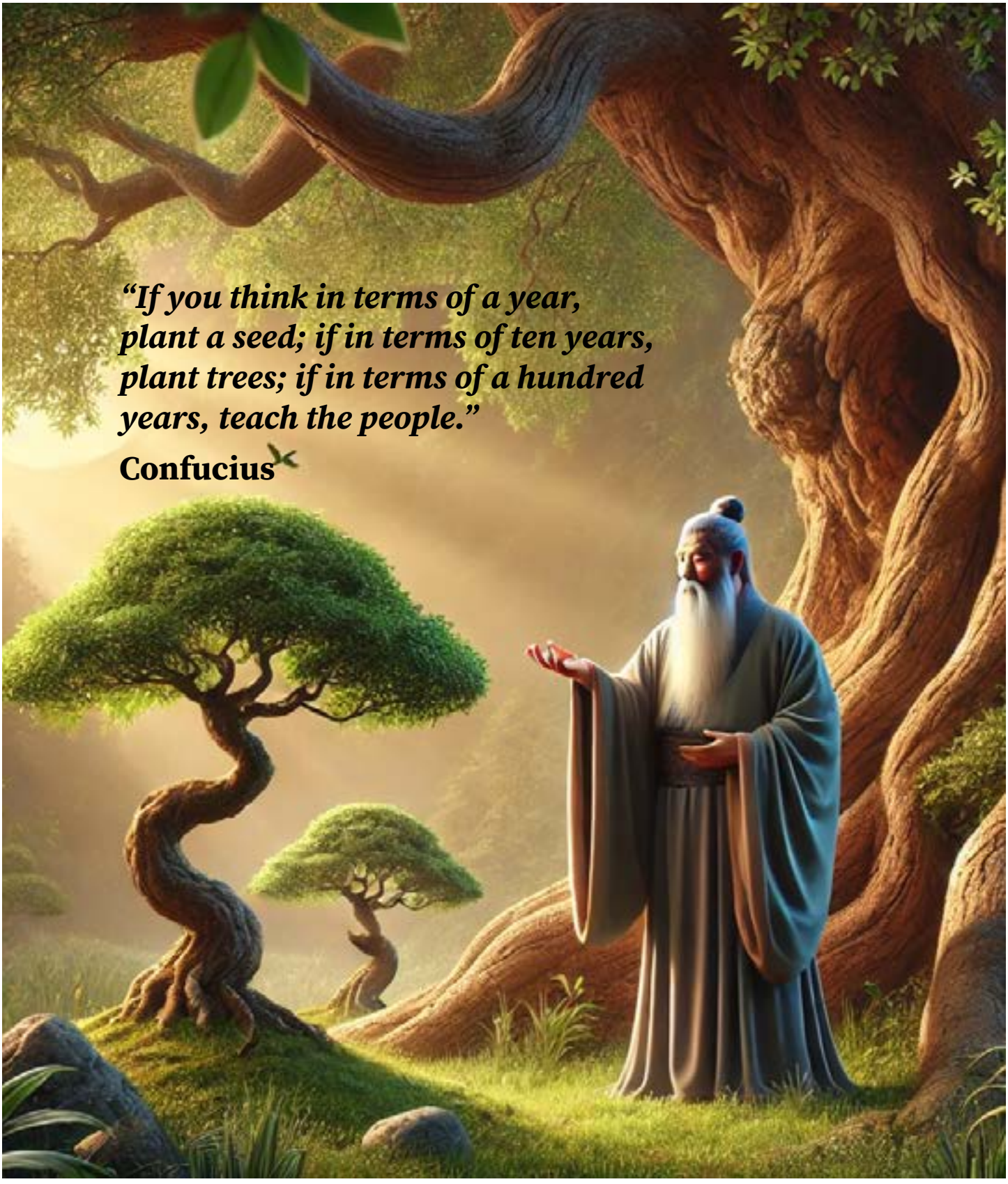
Well, that time has come. You took the time to learn the catechism or book method with your coaches and mentors, but it shouldn't stop there. There is so much more you can do to make YOUR Lodge successful. Being a Mason is not about having a card with your name on it. It's about attending your lodge before you no longer have a lodge to attend. It's about socializing with your brethren inside as well as outside the lodge. It's about taking a role in your lodge. I am not talking about feeling forced to take an officers position. I am talking about showing your Worshipful Master support by attending lodge, volunteering to help with Lodge events, or being on a committee (or forming a committee) to further the communities we live in. We should be pillars of our communities as many Masons in the past.

Becoming a Master Mason is a great milestone in all of our lives. And now it's time to live that enlightened life. The Worshipful Master this year has taken several initiatives to try and keep the members active. There are numerous community activities that we could participate in, even at our very own home, no matter where we live. We just need more good men to head up the groups. One small group of men can't do it all.

http://www.jal350afam.org/calendar/

https://www.facebook.com/JohnALejeune350/

GroupMe App: John A Lejeune 350 AF.AM.
Ask an officer and we'll add you.


“If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of a hundred years, teach the people.”
Confucius

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was established in Quantico, Virginia in February 1925. The lodge is named in honor of Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, U.S. Marine Corps. General Lejeune was an exemplary Marine having led combat forces in WWI, guided the establishment of schools at Quantico, and later served as the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps. After the war while still deployed, General Lejeune was made a Master Mason in a lodge in Coblenz, Germany and became a devoted member of our Masonic fraternity.

On July 2, 1924, twenty-four Masons signed a petition to the Grand Lodge of Virginia to grant a charter to establish Quantico Lodge No. 350. On March 6, 1925, a Provisional Lodge was opened for the installation of the first officers. Major General Lejeune, an attendee, was introduced by Most Worshipful (MW) Callahan, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. General Lejeune spoke about the characteristics of Freemasonry – tolerance, brotherly love, obedience to both human and Divine laws, and democracy. The Bible used to open the Provisional Lodge was provided by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, the same Bible used by George Washington. The first stated communication with the newly installed officers was held on March 11, 1925, during which both MW Callahan and General Lejeune were elected to honorary membership in the Lodge.

At the stated communication of July 20, 1927, the Lodge not having a permanent meeting place, Brother Zalanka recommended that the Marine Memorial Church in Quantico would be fitting and a building fund was established with members initially assessed $1.00 per month, and later raised to $10.00 per month for a period of five years. Brother F.P. Moncure was authorized to consummate the purchase of the Marine Memorial M.E. Church as the permanent home for $5,000.00 and purchase the adjoining lots for $500 each.

The cornerstone of our Lodge was laid on June 4, 1934 in a ceremony led by the grand Master of Virginia, W.M. Brown. The cornerstone contains many items to include the traditional vials of corn, wine, and oil, a Lodge roster, an 1816 copper penny; an Indian arrowhead; a civil war bullet, and a picture of the officers of this Lodge for 1934. On May 24, 1940, the Lodge held a mortgage burning ceremony and a changed our By-Laws to re-set dues at 75 cents per month.

From the first petitioners on July 16, 1925, Earl J. Zalanka, James H. Spalding, Ernest W. Beck (the first raised to Master Mason in our Lodge), Thomas D. Collins, and Cyrus A. Gould, and the first Masons to affiliate with the Lodge, many Masons have called John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 as their Lodge. Because of our unique location within Marine Corps Base Quantico, many notable Marines have also called John A. Lodge No. 350 their Lodge, these include:

- LtGen John A. Lejeune
- MajGen Randolph C. Berkley
- BGen Merritt A. Edson
- MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.
- LtGen Merwin W. Silverthorn
- Maj Calvin A. Lloyd

But the affiliation of Marines with the Masonic fraternity is not without precedence. Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Corps on 10 November 1775, was at the time an active Masonic Lodge with membership that included not only Benjamin Franklin but Samuel Nicholas, the first commissioned Marine Officer and the first Commandant of the Marines.

As the Masons of John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 reach our 100th anniversary as part of the Quantico community and as members of one of the world's oldest Fraternities, we remain dedicated to the legacy of our namesake and the Masonic concepts of faith, hope, and charity.

We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions to prospective men of good report; the future is up to YOU..

Mission Statement of Freemasonry:

To promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences; by teaching the great principles of *Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth*; and, by the outward expression of these through its fellowship, to find ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self.

In John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350, our passion is to strive to inculcate and nurture in our members a sense of *empathy* **and** *belonging* by promoting Masonic teachings and practice through the Ritualistic, Educational, Esoteric, Charitable, and Fellowship-Oriented realms in an affable environment that focuses and regards the *INTERNAL*, and not the *EXTERNAL* qualifications of our Brethren.

“Your life is a gift from your Creator. Your gift back to the Creator is what you do *with your life.*”
“Every Passion Has It’s Destiny”

---Billy Mills, (Oglala Lakota, Sioux)

1964 Olympic Gold Medal, 10,000m Run, Tokyo
Captain, United States Marine Corps(Retired)
Founder of: Running Strong for American Indian Youth